

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable examination of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 5, 9-14 and 19 are amended; Claim 20 is added and no claims are canceled herewith.

With respect to the amendment to Claim 1, “a stopper” has been amended to “a stop point” which indicates a portion shown in the specification and in the figures as a stop point 14.

With respect to Claim 19, “locking projections” has been amended to recite “small projections.” This amendment is supported in the specification at least at pages 26-27 and Figs. 22-24.

With respect to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect species IV, Fig. 19. Claims 7-10, 13, 16-17 and 20 read on the elected species. This election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1, 3-5, 7-20 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. MPEP §803 states that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

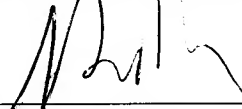
It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Application No. 10/522,376  
Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2007

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the election of species requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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